



County of Santa Cruz

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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FIRST DISTRICT

ELLEN PIRIE
SECOND DISTRICT

NEAL COONERTY
THIRD DISTRICT

TONY CAMPOS
FOURTH DISTRICT

MARK W. STONE
FIFTH DISTRICT

September 7, 2007

Chair and Members
California Integrated Waste Management Board
P.O. Box 4025
Sacramento, CA 95812

Sent via e-mail

RE: LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS
IN SEPTEMBER AGENDA ITEM #12

Dear Chair Reid-Brown and Members of the Board:

On June 6, 2007, the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors adopted Resolution 63-2007 in support of extended producer responsibility for management of discarded products, a copy of which is attached for your information. At the same time, our Board authorized the Public Works Director to sign the California Product Stewardship Council (CPSC) letter of agreement on behalf of the County of Santa Cruz to formalize the County's participation in the CPSC.

The California Product Stewardship Council (CPSC) is an organization that started in the Spring of 2006 as a result of regulations that make it illegal for residents to dispose of batteries, fluorescent lamps and other hazardous products in the trash. The organization is comprised of California local governments and local government associations aiming to transform the solid waste system in California from one focused on taxpayer and ratepayer funded waste diversion to one that relies on producer responsibility in order to reduce public costs and drive improvements in product design. CPSC currently represents 25 cities and counties, plus other government groups such as stormwater management associations and a municipal utility district. The Regional Council of Rural Counties' Environmental Services Joint Powers Authority, representing 22 additional counties, joined CPSC in March, 2007.

With the participation of County of Santa Cruz staff, CPSC associates held a conference call Thursday, September 6, 2007, to review the agenda for your September 11 meeting. With regard to

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agenda item #12, Consideration of General Extended Producer Responsibility Policy Options, there was unanimous agreement that the CIWMB staff recommendation that your Board adopt Option 1 is clearly well thought out and well supported.

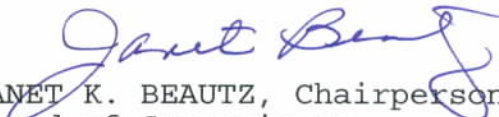
The CIWMB staff recommendation to adopt a framework for Extended Producer Responsibility, develop a legislative proposal to implement the framework, continue implementing voluntary product stewardship initiatives, and facilitate prioritization of products for new product stewardship initiatives is consistent with our Board's resolution referred to above.

This resolution supports the definition of EPR in Attachment 1 as "the extension of the responsibility of producers, and all entities in the product chain, to reduce the cradle-to-cradle impacts of a product and its packaging."

We appreciate the preference described in Option 1 for a performance-based, results-oriented approach, rather than prescriptive measures. Regulations and programs should be transparent and accountable, while giving the private sector the freedom to apply its creativity and expertise to solve end-of-life management issues. The private sector has the knowledge of the products and the tools to ensure successful program design. Engaging the private sector is the only way progress will be made in reducing waste and achieving sustainability goals.

We are grateful to the California Integrated Waste Management Board and staff for taking such a leadership role on the important issue of extended producer responsibility which is necessary to address the waste reduction beyond 50%.

Sincerely,


JANET K. BEAUTZ, Chairperson
Board of Supervisors

JKB:ted
Attachment

cc: Mark Leary, Executive Director of CIWMB

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RESOLUTION NO. 63-2007

On the motion of Supervisor Pirie
duly seconded by Supervisor Stone
the following resolution is adopted:

RESOLUTION OF THE SANTA CRUZ COUNTY BOARD OF
SUPERVISORS TO SUPPORT ESTABLISHMENT OF STATE AND LOCAL
POLICY ON EXTENDED PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY

WHEREAS, on February 8, 2006, a state law took effect that makes it illegal to throw in the garbage items defined as "universal waste," which includes household batteries, fluorescent bulbs or tubes, thermostats, other items that contain mercury, as well as electronic devices including VCRs, microwaves, cellular phones, cordless phones, printers, and radios; and

WHEREAS, assuming a fifty percent recovery rate, collecting and disposing of these products now banned from the trash will cost Santa Cruz County local governments an estimated additional \$1.5 million each year; and

WHEREAS, when additional products are declared as hazardous by the State the burden to manage these items will fall to local jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, there are significant environmental and human health impacts associated with household products that contain toxic ingredients, including mercury, lead, cadmium and other toxic chemicals that when disposed of improperly can contaminate water supplies; and

WHEREAS, manufactured goods and packaging constitute about seventy-five percent of the materials managed by, or for, the County of Santa Cruz and sent to landfill, costing County of Santa Cruz residents and businesses about \$8.8 million a year for collection, diversion and disposal; and

WHEREAS, by covering the costs of collection and disposal, local governments are subsidizing the production of waste because manufacturers know that whatever they produce, the local government will foot the bill for recycling or disposal; and

WHEREAS, extended Producer Responsibility is an environmental policy approach in which producers assume responsibility—financial and/or physical—for the management of post-consumer products, so that those who produce and use products bear the costs of recycling and proper disposal; and

WHEREAS, when brand owners are responsible for ensuring their products are recycled responsibly, and when health and environmental costs are included in the product price, there is a strong incentive to design and purchase goods that are more durable, easier to recycle, and less toxic; and

WHEREAS, it is timely to develop and support extended producer responsibility legislation to address the universal waste sector of the waste stream first in response to the state ban on universal waste from household disposal;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Supervisors urges our representatives in Sacramento to pursue statewide extended producer responsibility legislation that will give incentives for the redesign of products to make them less toxic, and shift the cost for recycling and proper disposal of products from the local government to the producer and distributor of the product; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the County of Santa Cruz develop producer responsibility policies requiring the manufacturers of products sold to County departments to offer less toxic alternatives, and to take responsibility for collecting and recycling their products at the end of their useful life; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the County of Santa Cruz will continue to support extended producer responsibility initiatives, including the California Product Stewardship Council, and statewide legislation beyond universal waste to cover areas including other hazardous products, bulky packaging, and items like plastics and multi-material products that are difficult to recycle.


PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Cruz, State of California, this 27th day of February, 2007, by the following vote:

AYES: SUPERVISORS Pirie, Coonerty, Campos, Stone and Beautz

NOES: SUPERVISORS None

ABSENT: SUPERVISORS None

ATTEST: 
Clerk of said Board


Chairperson of said Board

Approved as to form:


Office of County Counsel

DDG:mh

- Distribution: County Counsel
- Public Works
- General Services
- Assembly Member John Laird
- Assembly Member Anna Caballero
- Senator Maldonado
- Senator Simitian
- Margo Reid, Chair, California Integrated Waste Management Board
- Rubia Packard, California Integrated Waste Management Board
- Californians Against Waste

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